1	2	3	4
2.	Industrial Counselling Tanneries-II (Kanpur)	The Netherlands	Under consideration of the Netherlands Govt.
3.	Gomti Action Plan at Lucknow (Phase II of the assistance)	Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom ODA (UK)	Exact time would be known after March 1997
4.	Pollution Abatement in the Coastal Stretches of Madras City	European Economic Community (EEC)	Under consideration of the European Economic Community (EEC)

[English]

Medicine Scam

*526. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item, appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 9, 1996 under the caption 'Rs. 4 cr. medicine scam in Tihar Jail'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inspector General (Prisons), Delhi had ordered an inquiry into the procurement, stocking and issue of medicines in the Central Jail, Tihar during the year 1994-95. The Committee set up for the purpose detected irregularities in the overall management of medicines in the Jail. The irregularities relate, inter-alia, to understating the cost of medicines proposed to be purchased, purchase of medicines when sufficient stocks were available, procurement of medicines of doubtful utility, inflated quantities of medicines shown as issued and purchase of medicines at high prices. The report of the Committee has been forwarded by the Jail authorities to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for appropriate action.

Setting up of Fertilizer Plant

*527. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Oman have signed a joint venture agreement for setting up of a fertilizer plant in October;

(b) the reasons for not undertaking the project earlier as the Memorandum of Understanding for the same was signed two years back;

(c) whether the project will be set up in Oman and the entire output will be purchased by India under a buy back agreement, at the international prices;

(d) the Indian equity in the joint venture;

(e) the role India expect to perform in the project which will produce both urea and ammonia with the participation of KRIBHCO and RCF; and

(f) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of India/Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO)/Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) and the Government of Sultanate of Oman/Oman Oil Company on 30th July, 1994 to prepare a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for setting up of 3500 tonnes per day ammonia and 4400 tonnes per day urea project in Oman. The DFR has been received. The project could not be undertaken because of delays in preparation of the DFR, finalisation of the project agreements and selection of the preferred Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) bidder for setting up the project on Lump Sum Turn Key (LSTK) basis. These activities have fallen behind schedule because of protracted negotiations between the two sides on the project agreements, delay in appointment of the LSTK consultant, acceptance of the request of EPC bidders for extension of the bid time and resignation of M/s Morgan Stanley as the Financial Advisor to the project, consequent to changes in the management of the Oman Oil Company. Evaluation of the EPC bids had to be deferred till the new Financial Advisor was appointed.